

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **OPPORTUNITY FOR ORGANIZATIONS TO EARN \$\$ Packaging Housing Loan and Grant Applications**

BOUTTE, LA, March 9, 2004 – Public and non-profit organizations are being recruited by USDA Rural Development to package Section 502 Single Family Housing and Section 504 Single Family Housing Loan and Grant applications in Plaquemines Parish.

Non-profit, community-based, and faith-based organizations are eligible to participate, and—after certification by USDA Rural Development—can earn \$500 per completed housing application package.

Certification training is being offered by USDA Rural Development on Tuesday, March 23, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., at the USDA Service Center, 14246 Highway 90, Boutte, Louisiana. Organizations interested in packaging housing loan and grant applications must attend this certification training to become eligible to participate.

"When an organization packages a loan or grant application, they ensure all parts of the package are complete," says Michael B. Taylor, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Louisiana. "We depend on local organizations to help us with this process."

Additional information may be obtained from the USDA Rural Development office in Amite, telephone (985) 748-8751, extension 4.

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Further information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development's web site at: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.